(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) In the first 3 years of IX Plan i.e. from 1997-98 to 1999-2000, 8923 kilometres of track has been renewed.

Congestion at Secunderabad Railway Station

*680. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have any long term plans to reduce congestion and difficult access at Secunderabad Railway Station in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) whether it is a fact that the nearer entrance is not easy for travellers to reach;

(c) what steps are proposed to properly re-design the access area in Secunderabad;

(d) whether any discussions have been held with the Municipal authorities;

(e) if so, when were such discussions held; and

(f) what was the outcome?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) There is some congestion on the main entry side-of station due to constantly increasing population pressure.

(c) The approach road to the main entry side is maintained by the Municipal Corporation. However, to facilitate easy access to the Station a second entry with a full fledged station building has been planned. The circulating area with booking office on the Bhoiguda side has already been provided as a part of this work. Landing of the Foot Over Bridge is also provided in the circulating area. A new Oliphanta road-under-bridge has also been commissioned which will ease the congestion further.

(d) No, Sir.

(c) and (f) Do not arise.